

against an individual for bringing concerns about possible civil rights problems to a school's attention.²⁹

SEAs and charter school authorizers have an important role in assisting charter schools with civil rights compliance. Every SEA or charter authorizer that receives Federal financial assistance has, as a matter of Federal law, an obligation to ensure that any charter school to which it provides a charter, money (regardless of whether they are Federal or State funds), or other significant assistance, is not discriminating.³⁰ In addition to SEAs and charter school authorizers, States can designate other agencies to take, investigate, and resolve complaints of discrimination by charter schools. Together with OCR, these entities can all provide technical assistance and support for charter schools, parents, and students.

If you have any questions or would like technical assistance on these issues, I encourage you to contact the OCR office in your region. I particularly urge individuals designated to coordinate charter schools' compliance with the civil rights laws to seek OCR's assistance whenever needed.³¹

The list of OCR offices is available at <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm>. You may also contact OCR's Customer Service Team at (800) 421-3481 or ocr@ed.gov.

Thank you for your commitment to improving public education and providing high-quality educational opportunities to our nation's students.

Sincerely,

/s/

Catherine E. Lhamon
Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

²⁹ 34 C.F.R. § 100.7(e) (Title VI); 34 C.F.R. § 106.71 (Title IX) (incorporating 34 C.F.R. §100.7(e) by reference); 34 C.F.R. § 104.61 (Section 504) (incorporating 34 C.F.R. §100.7(e) by reference); 28 C.F.R. § 35.134 (Title II); *see also* OCR *Dear Colleague Letter on Retaliation*, available at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr/letters/colleague-201304.html>.

³⁰ *See, e.g.*, 34 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(b)(1), 100.3(b)(2), 100.4(b) (Title VI); 34 C.F.R. § 104.4(b)(1)(v) (Section 504); 34 C.F.R. § 106.31(b)(6) (Title IX).

³¹ 34 C.F.R. §§ 106.8(a) (Title IX) (requiring each recipient of Federal financial assistance to designate coordinator); 104.7(a) (Section 504) (each recipient with at least 15 employees); 28 C.F.R. § 35.107(a) (Title II) (each public entity with at least 50 employees, regardless of whether they are a recipient of Federal financial assistance).